As described in the Specification, the cable structures according to the present invention exclude "loose tube" structures, i.e., rigid tube structures containing optical fibers that are free to move inside the rigid tubes. *See* Specification at page 3, lines 14-27. Rather, the present invention proposes an optical fiber cable structure based on a central reinforcing element to which bare optical fibers are *directly* coupled mechanically by contact. Further, this structure is set to be "tight" since the optical fibers are not free to move to accommodate longitudinal variations in the dimensions of the cable, since they are mechanically coupled to the central reinforcing element by being in contact therewith. *See* Specification at page 3, lines 31-35.

In contrast, the optical fiber according to Quinn is a "loose tube" type structure. In this regard, Applicant notes that Figure 5 depicts each buffer tube 14 as containing a plurality of fibers. Further, Quinn teaches that these buffer tubes are stranded along a central strength member 18. *See* Quinn at column 5, lines 35-53. Moreover, as the optical fibers are contained within buffer tubes 14, Quinn clearly fails to teach a buffer layer which presses the bare optical fibers into contact against the central reinforcing element to couple them mechanically to the central reinforcing element. Additionally, the buffer tube structure of the Quinn cable is discussed in the Specification, in which the movement of the optical fibers which occurs within the buffer tubes if bare fibers are not mechanically coupled to the central reinforcing element is described. *See* Specification at page 2, line 22 - page 3, line 13.

In contrast, the optical fiber cable defined by claims 1, 2 and 16 provide direct mechanical coupling between the bare optical fibers and the central reinforcing element to enable the central reinforcing element to assist the optical fibers in better accommodating variations in

the longitudinal dimensions of the cable. *See* Specification at page 7, lines 16-31. Further, the mechanical coupling provides adequate pressure between the bare optical fiber and the central reinforcing element such that the contraction and extension behavior of the cable is comparable to that of the bare optical fiber alone, which is clearly not provided in the "loose tube" cable structure of Quinn which lacks this mechanical coupling. *See* Specification at page 5, line 36 - page 6, line 10.

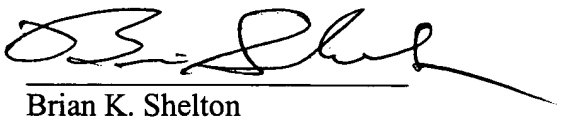
Thus, Quinn clearly fails to anticipate all the limitations of claims 1, 2 and 16 *at least* because Quinn cannot properly be interpreted to teach the claimed mechanical coupling of the bare optical fibers. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 16 is improper, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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